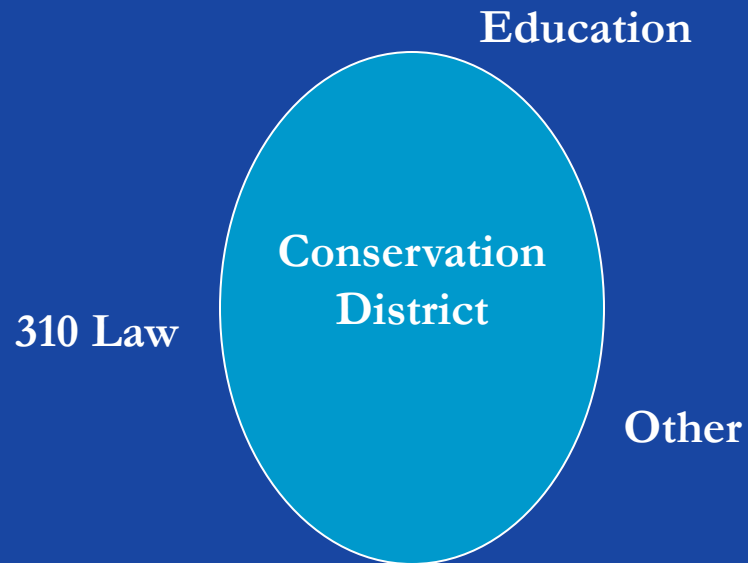


What Conservation Districts do.

In this module, you'll learn the basics of what Conservation Districts do in day to day operations.



Operation of Conservation Districts

What do CD's do?

The 310 Law (75-7-101)

The Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act, also known as "The 310 Law", is administered by the Conservation Districts.

- Any person proposing a project which is a physical alteration or modification that results in a change in the state of a natural, perennial-flowing stream or river, its bed, or its immediate banks in or near a perennial stream.
- A district supervisor and representatives from the appropriate agencies inspect the site to make sure the integrity of the stream is maintained.
- 310 permits are then approved/denied based on the inspection and the scope of the project.



Revised 12/2004 (1/1/09) 2/0
Available for download from:
www.mt.gov/conservation/districts

AGENCY USE ONLY Application # _____ Date Received _____
Date Accepted _____ Date Forwarded to EPRP _____

JOINT APPLICATION FOR PROPOSED WORK IN MONTANA'S STREAMS, WETLANDS, FLOODPLAINS, AND OTHER WATER BODIES

Use this form to apply for use on or all local, state, or federal projects listed below. "Information for Applicant" includes agency contacts and instructions for completing the application. To avoid delays, submit all required information, including a project site map and drawings. Incomplete applications will result in the delay of the application process. Other laws may apply. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain all permits and landowner permission, when applicable, before beginning work.

PERMIT	AGENCY	FEE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 310 Permit	Local Conservation District	No Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Floodplain Permit	Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks	No Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> Section 404 Permit, Section 10 Permit	Local Floodplain Administrator	Varies by city/county (\$25 - \$500+)
<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Authorization	U. S. Army Corps of Engineers	Varies \$0 - \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> 401 Certification	Department of Environmental Quality	\$150 (\$100 - \$400)
<input type="checkbox"/> Navigable Inland Use License or Easement	Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Trust Lands Management Division	License Fee, Easement Fee, plus annual fee

A. APPLICANT INFORMATION

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____
Has the landowner consented to this project? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Mailing Address: _____ Day Phone: _____
Physical Address: _____ Evening Phone: _____
City/State/Zip: _____ E-Mail: _____

NAME OF LANDOWNER (if different from applicant): _____
Mailing Address: _____ Day Phone: _____
Physical Address: _____ Evening Phone: _____
City/State/Zip: _____ E-Mail: _____

NAME OF CONTRACTOR/AGENT (if one is used): _____
Mailing Address: _____ Day Phone: _____
Physical Address: _____ Evening Phone: _____
City/State/Zip: _____ E-Mail: _____

B. PROJECT SITE INFORMATION

NAME OF STREAM or WATER BODY at project location: _____ Nearest Town: _____
Address Location: _____
1/4 _____ 1/4 Section _____ Township _____ Range _____
Longitude _____ Latitude _____
The state owns the beds of certain state navigable waterways. Is this a state navigable waterway? Yes or No, take place, make, industries, landmarks: 2/4 enclosed "X" representing the exact project location. IF NOT CLEARLY STATED ON THE MAP OR SKETCH, PROVIDE WRITTEN DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE.

ATTACH A PROJECT SITE MAP OR A SKETCH that includes: 1) the water body where the project will take place, make, industries, landmarks: 2/4 enclosed "X" representing the exact project location. IF NOT CLEARLY STATED ON THE MAP OR SKETCH, PROVIDE WRITTEN DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE.

This form is for all Department of Transportation and DOT 125 permits (government projects)
Project Number: _____
Contract Number: _____
DOT/NDOT Compliance ☐ Yes ☐ No Contract letting date: _____
If Yes, fill out this application (does not apply) _____

Conservation Education

CD's address conservation issues to both youth and adult audiences by:

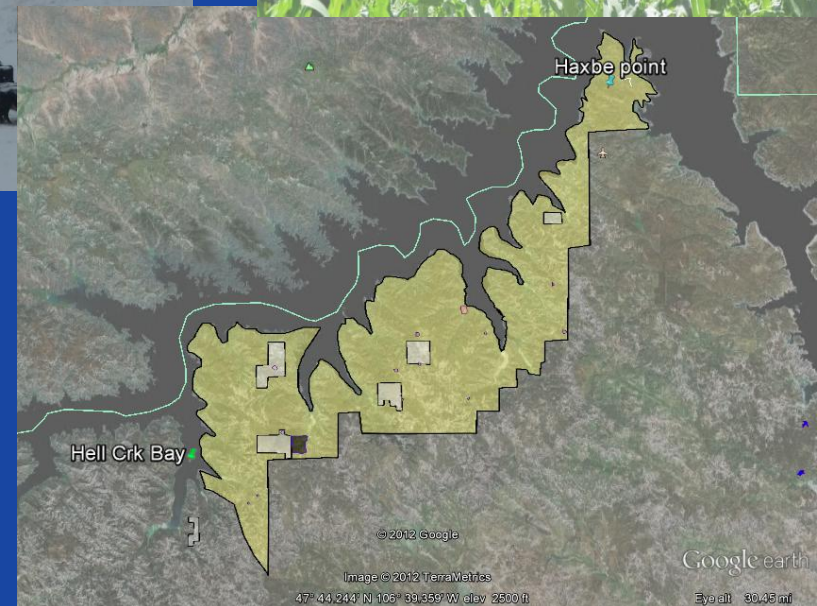
- Sponsoring **kids'** conservation field days and annual camps. Some of these include:
 - Creek & Critters
 - Montana Envirothon
 - Flood awareness
 - Ag Days
 - Ag Appreciation Week
- Sponsoring **adult** education such as
 - Realtor Workshops
 - Governors Range tour
 - Conservation days
 - Spring Crops Tour
 - Irrigation Tour
 - Irrigation Efficiency workshop



Demonstration Projects

CD's promote, sponsor and lead Demonstration projects to learn and educate producers, agencies and general public.

- Sponsoring projects such as::
 - Cover Crops
 - Bale Grazing demonstrations
 - Grazing Management Pilot Projects
 - Weed control demonstrations/projects



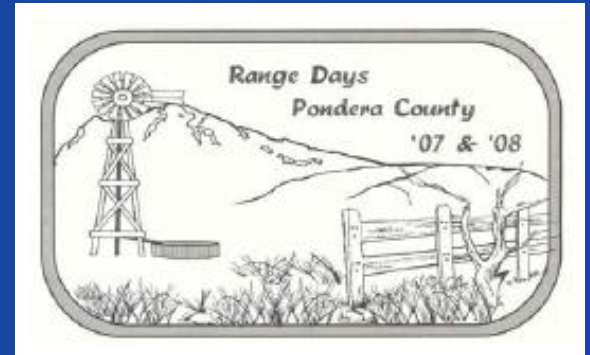
Rangeland Resource Executive Committee (RREC)

Governor Appointed to provide .

Approximately two-thirds of Montana's land is utilized as rangeland. Many conservation districts appoint a county range leader, and work to assist ranchers, sportsmen, recreationists, and other users of rangeland to become more aware of each other's needs.

Range Committees & programs such as:

- Montana Youth Range Camp
- Montana Range Days
- Governors Range Tour
- Winter Grazing Seminar
- Range Loan Program



Rolling Rivers Trailer Education

Rolling Rivers Trailers are stream tables on wheels that can demonstrate not only stream dynamics but watershed principles as well.

The Rolling River is a five by ten foot utility trailer with a six-inch deep trailer bed that is filled with sand (actually recycled plastic granules). A meandering river or two is scooped out running from one end to the other. Trees, foliage and a few rocks line the riverbank. When water is turned on at the top of the watershed, it flows through the river and can be used to demonstrate a variety of water lessons including:

- River energy:
- Riparian areas:
 - Turn the water on full force as in a flood situation and the riverbank begins to break down and collapses even faster. This demonstrates the principles of healthy versus unhealthy riparian areas.
- Floodplains
- Non-point pollution:.
- Effects of diversion:

Sponsored by MACD!



Urban Conservation & Small Acreage

With the rapid increase in subdivided acreages, and the resource issues associated with these small tracts, districts have recently taken on a new role. Below are some examples:

- Hosting workshops and producing educational materials for new landowners;
- Operating recycling programs; and,
- Pooling of technical expertise from various agencies to provide services like soil surveys and water disposal information to planning commissioners, municipal officers, and others.

Resource Conservation Advisory Council (RCAC)

- Governor-appointed council of conservation district supervisors
- Has served the Conservation Districts Bureau since 1980
- Main focus of the council has been to review grants and advise
- DNRC how to best manage the funding provided to CD's
 - Reviews programs & grants such as:
 - 223 Grant program
 - CD Administration grants
 - 310 and Legal assistance funds

Saline Seep Reclamation

What is a saline seep? You may have seen white, powdery-looking spots in the low areas of fields. These spots are seeps, and they have adverse effects on water quality, wildlife, and other resources, not to mention agricultural production.

Conservation district supervisors in 33 counties make up the membership of the Montana Salinity Control Association. This internationally recognized organization headquartered in Conrad, Montana provides expert technical assistance in the reclamation and control of saline seeps in agricultural areas.



Water Quality

Districts:

- Are the local contact for the control of non-point source (NPS) pollution.
 - Conduct projects demonstrating NPS pollution control practices.
 - Prefer voluntary, education, and incentive-based approaches to regulatory approaches.
 - Work with state and federal agencies (for the most part, the DEQ & EPA) to identify problem areas and prioritize treatment.
- Recently, the manner in which these problems are addressed has become the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's) for impaired streams in Montana.



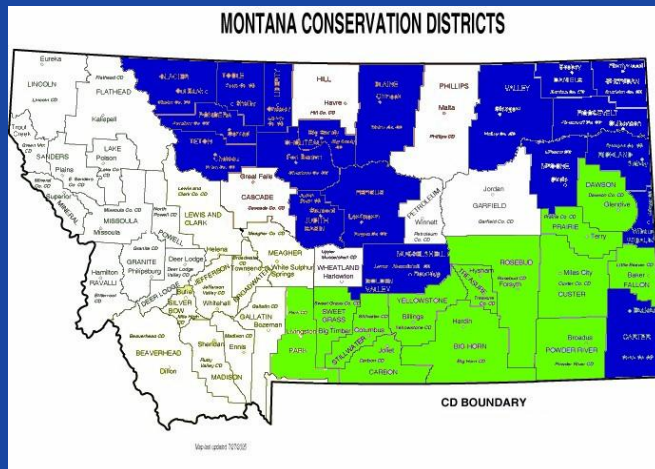
Whitmore Ravine, Cascade Co.



Water Reservations

Conservation districts in Montana are able to reserve water for future beneficial use. Currently, 31 conservation districts hold water reservations throughout the Yellowstone, Little Missouri, and Missouri River basins. Each of these districts administers its reservation for use by individuals within the district. Applications for reserved water use can be obtained from the applicable conservation district.

Big Horn	Basin	Blaine	Carbon	Carter	Chouteau
Custer	Daniels	Dawson	Fallon	Fergus	Glacier
Judith	Liberty	McCone	Musselshell		Park
Pondera	Powder River		Prairie		Richland
Roosevelt	Rosebud	Sheridan	Stillwater	Sweet Grass	
Teton	Toole	Treasure	Valley	Wibaux	Yellowstone



Conservation Equipment

In order to promote conservation practices, districts demonstrate and rent out a wide array of equipment to land users, including:

- Tree Planters;
- Fabric Layers;
- Weed Sprayers;
- Weed Baggers;
- Conservation Tillage Drills;
- Grass Seeders; and,
- Tree Chippers



Tree planter



Grass Seeder

Watershed Planning

- Locally led groups tackling local and regional natural resource management issues on a watershed basis. Districts are often instrumental on drawing people and resources together to assist the development of these groups.
 - Big Timber & Swamp Creek Watershed
 - Marias River Watershed
 - Teton Watershed Group
 - Madison River watershed



Local Watershed Councils, and Coordinated Resource Management Efforts

They all mean the same thing--local folks getting together in a collaborative, consensus-based process to tackle local and regional natural resource management issues on a river basin or watershed basis.

Conservation districts often draw people and resources together to catalyze or assist in the development of these efforts.

A prime example of one of these groups is [Montana Watershed, Inc.](#) Also, see the [Montana Watershed Coordination Council](#) site for more information about watershed groups and activities in Montana.



Federal Conservation Programs

Conservation districts work very closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) to provide local direction for the administration of federal conservation programs. Some of these programs are:

- The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP);
- The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP);
- The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP); and,
- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).



Fire rehabilitation Efforts/Coordination

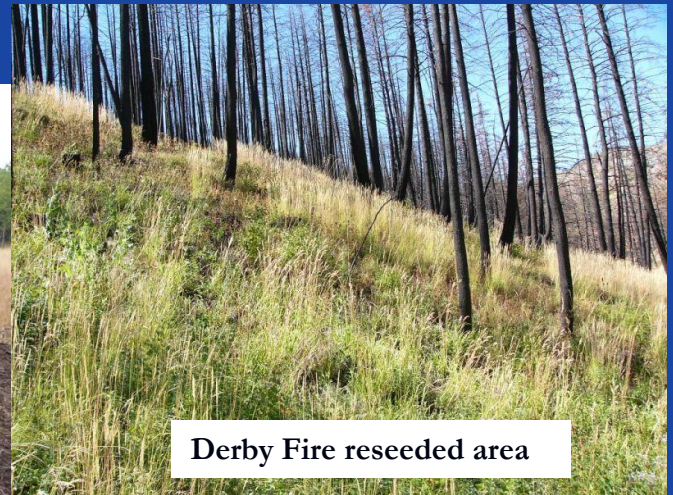
Conservation districts in areas of Fires become involved and are the liason between the fire fighting agencies/crews and the landowners. CD's also coordinate reseeding efforts, become the local source of information, and seed distribution to landowners.



Bundy Fire damage



Suppression line rehabilitation



Derby Fire reseeded area

Forest Practices

Conservation districts in the western part of the state participate in cooperative Best Management Practices education programs and promote sustainable forest management as a means of maintaining stable rural economies.

- Tree thinning projects
- Fire reduction and preparation

